New runway at IGI airport, Delhi

*220.SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new runway at Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport was opened for commercial operations recently;

(b) if so, whether the runway has been plagued with teething troubles such as snag in ILS and poor lighting systems;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government proposes to take immediate steps to remove all such snags at the new runway of IGI Airport so that passengers can enjoy congestion free landing at the airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) No Sir.

(c) and (d) ILS & Lighting systems of the new runway are functioning properly. In fact, this runway has also been certified for Cat III B operations on 12.12.2008.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

1550.MS. MABEL REBELLO : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up captive airports and heliports across the country for private use;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the objective behind this project;

(c) whether some of such helipads are proposed to be set up in Orissa, Jharkhand, etc; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Considering the phenomenal growth in aviation sector and to ease congestion at the major airports, Government of India have approved a new policy for greenfield airports. Further, to improve connectivity to far flung areas and industrial locations, the Government have also relaxed the procedure for approval of new airports/heliports for private use. So far, two private airports for private use have been cleared at Pernem in Goa and Mundra (Near Ahmedabad) in Gujarat.

Flights from Gulf to Kerala

1551. PROF. P. J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received representation to increase the passenger flights from Gulf region to Kerala, during the festival season, and to do away with the practice of hiking the airfare during such seasons;

(b) whether Government is aware that such high fares are unaffordable to Indian workers in Gulf who are mostly skilled and semi-skilled workers;

(c) if so, whether Government would consider to stop the practice of hiking high fare during festival seasons; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) From time to time representations have been received from Non-Resident Indian Bodies, State Governments and passengers requesting for increase of passenger flights from the Gulf region to Kerala. During the festival season, extra section flights in the Gulf - Kerala sector are cleared by the Government to meet the increased demand.

As the Government does not regulate fares, it is for airline to decide fares as per its commercial judgement and compete with the other airline, including the public sector airlines, operating on these routes.

Shortage of pilots

1552.DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of pilots for the Aircrafts in India both private and public depend upon pilots from abroad to manage the shortage;

(b) if so, the number of pilots with their category drawn from aboard and working in Indian Airways and their period of tenure there, airways - wise;

(c) whether there are short - term and long - term plans to get over this shortage and the future requirement; and

(d) whether there has been a detailed study relating to the volume of air traffic over a period of time in future and the corresponding infrastructure, aircrafts, man-power required to meet the challenge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir. At present there is no general shortage of pilots. However, there is a shortage of aircraft type endorsed pilots, particularly in the Commander category.

(b) Foreign pilots are authorised for a tenure of 3 years extendable by one year on case to case basis. The number of foreign pilots working as Pilot in Command and co - pilot respectively are Air India - 113 and 26; Alliance Air - 38 and 3; Jet Airways -265 and 21; Jetlite -1 and 1; Kingfisher (including Air Deccan) - 245 and 5; Spice Jet -67 and 03; Go Air - 5 and 6; Paramount - 17 and 2; Indigo - 44 and 29; Blue Dart - 9 and 0.

(c) In order to have sufficient quality pilots over longer period of time, the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademl (IGRUA) is being modernised through upgradation of civil and electrical infrastructure and acquisition of additional trainer aircraft. IGRUA has also entered into a management contract with M/s. CAE, a reputed international organisation in this field, to